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Summary record of the 43rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 7 December 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley (Australia)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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Agenda item 166: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*)

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99-82641 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 166: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/54/494 and Corr.1 and A/54/622)

1. **Mr. Hays** (United States of America) said that the United States fully supported the timely and successful completion of the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). UNMIK was critical to future peace and development in Kosovo and to regional security and his Government wished to reiterate its support for the Mission and for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo.

2. The United States deeply appreciated the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in providing critical advice so that the Organization could construct and finance its missions in the most effective and disciplined manner possible. The Advisory Committee had noted in its report (A/54/622) that UNMIK was unique among United Nations missions in its mandate, size and scope and the extent to which it interacted with other entities, such as the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). His Government recognized that there were difficulties inherent in preparing the initial budget for such a Mission and that it would be prudent to revisit resource issues in the future on the basis of experience in order to ensure that money was spent prudently and that the Mission received the support it needed.

3. The United States called upon the Secretariat and Member States to accelerate the deployment of civilian police in Kosovo, a task whose slow pace had been noted in the Advisory Committee's report and whose ultimate success was critical to the success of the entire Mission. UNMIK was a crucial work in progress and the United States looked forward to giving appropriate consideration to the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

4. **Ms. Aragon** (Philippines) asked why the Advisory Committee had recommended that the post of head of the Office of Gender Affairs should be downgraded from D-2 to P-5.

5. **Mr. Park Hae-yun** (Republic of Korea) said that, while UNMIK should be given the resources needed to effectively discharge its unique mandate, the Mission's proposed staffing and grade structure appeared to have been significantly inflated. His delegation would welcome an explanation of the proposed grade structure and the unnecessary fragmentation of the functions of staff in the Professional category and above in the Office of Political Affairs. The Office of Human Resources Management should be closely involved in reviewing the proposed grade structure.

6. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that his delegation supported the establishment of the Mission and the related budget proposals submitted by the Secretary-General. Israel extended its condolences to the families of international staff members who had lost their lives serving the cause of peace in Kosovo.

7. **Mr. Marquardt** (Germany) said that UNMIK was critical to peace and development in Kosovo and to regional security. Every effort should therefore be made to ensure the Mission's success. His delegation noted the observation that the Advisory Committee did not see the rationale for the 6 National Officers proposed for the Civil Administration in Kosovo (A/54/622, para. 40). As the head of the Civil Administration attached great importance to their deployment, it would be helpful if the Secretariat would explain the rationale.

8. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that she would not repeat Cuba's well-know position on the aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General's proposed budget submission was not typical, since it had been prepared to meet the operational needs of a mission with unusual characteristics. Such a large budget proposal, however, should have been more carefully prepared and more details and justifications provided. The Mission's proposed staffing and grade structure, especially the requests for high-level posts, were significantly inflated.

9. The Secretariat should also explain in detail the role of the international agencies in the implementation of the Mission's mandate and how such agencies could be included in technical cooperation programmes and in creating structures in the field. Despite Cuba's own financial difficulties, it had contributed medical personnel to help the people of Kosovo.

10. The proposed inclusion of United Nations Volunteers among the Mission's civilian personnel might constitute a viable solution to the problem of gratis personnel. She noted, however, that UNMIK was

using for its operations at the regional level the five sectors into which the Kosovo Force (KFOR) had earlier divided the territory, instead of the seven districts into which Kosovo had been divided historically. It would be interesting to know why the historical division of the territory had not been followed.

11. The Secretariat should have been more realistic in its estimates of resource requirements. While her delegation agreed that adequate resources should be provided for the Mission, it did not support the Secretary-General's submission.

12. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), responding to requests for clarification of the Advisory Committee's report (A/54/622), said that the Advisory Committee had noted in paragraph 10 of its report that both the Executive Committee and the Joint Planning Group had the potential to be an effective arrangement for the elimination of waste and duplication and the promotion of coordination through, for example, the establishment of joint and common services wherever feasible. The actual effectiveness of such coordination would, however, depend on the behaviour of the parties concerned, especially the four pillars, and on their respect for the decisions and recommendations of the Executive Committee and the Joint Planning Group.

13. He would leave it to the Secretariat to provide the clarification sought by the representative of Germany concerning National Officers. In reply to the question asked by the representative of the Philippines concerning the post level of the head of the Office of Gender Affairs, the Advisory Committee had indeed recommended that gender activities should be handled by an Officer at the P-5 rather than the D-2 level. In paragraph 21 of its report, however, it had stated that its recommendations should not prevent the Secretary-General from proposing, on the basis of actual experience in the Mission, further adjustments in the staffing structure of and resource estimates for UNMIK in future budget submissions. The Advisory Committee's recommendation was therefore not final and the Secretary-General did retain a measure of flexibility in the matter.

14. **Mr. Yeo** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that the current submission was not a revised budget for the Mission but a request for an initial commitment. The Advisory Committee had noted the difficulties inherent in preparing a budget for a Mission that was in many ways unique.

15. The functions of the six National Officers would be of a substantive nature; it was not intended for them to provide language support services. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations would respond at a later stage to the question asked concerning the role of international agencies in UNMIK.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/54/SR.44

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 44th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 9 December 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Sial (Vice-Chairman) (Pakistan)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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00-29263 (E)

Rental of United Nations premises by press and other entities

Section 26. Public information

Use of general temporary assistance for specific positions

Organization of work

In the absence of Ms. Wensley (Australia), Mr. Sial (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda Item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/54/3 (chaps. I, VII (Sections B and C) and IX)

1. In the absence of comments, **the Chairman** proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that had been allocated to the Committee.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **Ms. Archini** (Italy) said that her delegation was happy that the Committee had completed its consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council. The past year had been a very busy one for the Council, and her delegation hoped that it would be equally active in the future. It noted in particular that the President of the Council had kept his word concerning the completion of its work on the "seven points" outlined in his foreword to the annual report.

4. **Mr. Ekorong A Dong** (Cameroon) said that his delegation endorsed the comments made by the representative of Italy.

Agenda Item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.36 concerning agenda item 48 (A/C.5/54/38)

5. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) orally introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/54/38), said that draft resolution A/54/L.36 and the recent decision by the Security Council in its resolution 1277 (1999) would phase out the current International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) and establish a new International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH). The Secretary-General had estimated the cost of the new mission, including the residual cost of MICIVIH, at $24.8 million. An amount of $14.5 million would be funded from extrabudgetary resources and $10.3 million from the regular budget.

6. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the estimate proposed by the Secretary-General; in a few cases it had requested that additional clarification be submitted directly to the Fifth Committee.

7. The cost of extending MICIVIH to 15 March 2000 was $1.2 million gross. That amount was to be funded from the regular budget and was included in the $10.3 million gross to be authorized and charged against the provision for special missions under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The cost of extending MIPONUH to 15 March was estimated at $2.2 million gross.

8. The Advisory Committee had previously authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to $2.2 million gross in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/233 A.

9. **Ms. Buergo Rodriguez** (Cuba) said that her delegation would like more time to consider the statement of programme budget implications and the comments of the Advisory Committee. Her country supported the new mission.

10. The amount of $24 million needed to establish the new mission in Haiti should be prorated among all the Member States in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter. The Secretary-General proposed that, of the $24 million, some $14.7 million should come from voluntary contributions on the ground that that amount would be used for the technical assistance component of the programme. Her delegation asked why it was proposed that technical cooperation activities should be financed by voluntary contributions and what the difference was between the technical cooperation activities to be carried out under the new mission (MICAH) and those previously carried out under MICIVIH. She asked how technical cooperation activities had been funded under MICIVIH; she drew attention in that connection to General Assembly resolution 53/95, which specified that technical assistance would be a component of the mission. She also asked whether there had been any trust funds available to support the technical assistance component of MICIVIH and, if so, what amount had been involved.

11. The Secretary-General indicated that $9,475,144 could be made available from the trust fund for the enhancement of the UNSMIH/UNTMIH capacity, which meant that there was a deficit of some $5.3 million, although her delegation noted the statement of the Advisory Committee that some States had indicated to the Secretariat their willingness to provide funds. Her delegation felt that only a prorated assessment would ensure solid and stable funding, assuming that Members of the Organization met their financial obligations. The proposed means of financing seemed to be directed at reinforcing the tendency to replace prorated assessments by voluntary contributions in the context of a budgetary policy of zero growth which had not been approved by the General Assembly and which had far-reaching adverse effects on the functioning of the Organization.

12. She asked the Secretariat to provide information on the extent of support from the Organization of American States (OAS) for the mission in Haiti in 1999, and on the prospects for similar support in the future.

13. **Ms. Shearouse** (United States of America) said that her country firmly supported the work of the United Nations missions in Haiti and believed that their success was essential to the future of democracy in that country as well as to its future prosperity. Her delegation therefore strongly supported the draft resolution to create MICAH. Paragraph 10 of the draft resolution authorized the Secretary-General to utilize the amounts allocated in the regular budget for MICIVIH, under its current mandate, for activities undertaken by MICAH. That language implied that the level of funding for MICAH would be the same as that received by MICIVIH in 1999, namely $6,769,600. Her delegation supported the provision of that amount in regular budget funds, to be supplemented by voluntary contributions. Her Government intended to make several voluntary contributions, including $7.2 million in prior contributions belonging to her Government that remained in the United Nations trust funds for the enhancement of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) and the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH). It also intended to make an additional voluntary contribution to the MICAH trust fund in the coming months and to make available a medical facility for MICAH personnel and either to contract the staff for such a facility directly or to reimburse the Organization for reasonable staff costs. It would also work with others to see if there were ways of ensuring continued helicopter support for the mission.

14. **Ms. Johnson** (Canada) urged the members of the Committee to bear in mind the time constraints for the adoption of a decision so as to enable the Secretariat to begin to prepare for the new mission, which her delegation supported. It was important to ensure a smooth transition to MICAH.

15. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the focus of MICAH, unlike that of MICIVIH, was primarily on technical cooperation and for that reason the Secretary-General had proposed that much of the funding should be in the form of voluntary contributions rather than assessed contributions under the regular budget.

16. The financing of MICIVIH had been entirely from assessed contributions. As far as a shortfall was concerned, of a total extrabudgetary requirement of $14.7 million, almost $9.5 million had already been identified. Further contributions were anticipated and the Committee would be informed in the event of there being any actual shortfall. Regarding participation by the Organization of American States (OAS), there had been a substantial OAS component in MICIVIH but that had tapered off. It was not anticipated that there would be any involvement of OAS in MICAH.

17. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that her delegation was not entirely satisfied with the information that had been provided by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division. She would like more details of the change of approach between the two missions regarding the technical cooperation component. The entire cost of the new mission should be met from assessed contributions.

18. **The Chairman** proposed that the matter be referred to informal consultations.

19. *It was so decided.*

Programme budget implications of draft resolution II contained in document A/54/604 concerning agenda item 115 (A/C.5/54/36)

20. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), orally presenting the Advisory Committee's report on the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications of draft

resolution II contained in the report of the Third Committee on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/54/604), said that the Secretary-General had submitted an estimate of $184,600. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of that amount which, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

21. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/54/36) and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution II recommended by the Third Committee in its report on the right of peoples to self-determination, an additional requirement of $184,600 would arise under section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

22. *It was so decided.*

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 47 (continued) (A/C.5/54/34)

23. **The Chairman** recalled that the Committee had taken up the statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1 at its 41st meeting and had decided to defer a decision pending submission of other statements of programme budget implications.

24. He proposed that the Committee, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/54/34) and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1, the requirements of $187,700 would be charged against the provision of $90,387,200 for special political missions requested in section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

25. *It was so decided.*

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 155 (continued) (A/C.5/54/35)

26. **The Chairman** recalled that the Committee had taken up the statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1 at its 41st meeting and had decided to defer a decision pending submission of other statements of programme budget implications.

27. He proposed that the Committee, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/54/35) and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1, an additional requirement of $105,200 would arise under section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

28. *It was so decided.*

29. **Ms. Shearouse** (United States of America) said that, while her delegation had not opposed the Committee's decision, efforts should continue to determine whether the additional requirement of $105,200 could be absorbed within the existing budget proposals for the work of the International Law Commission.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 76 (f) (continued) (A/C.5/54/31 and Add.1)

30. **The Chairman** recalled that the Committee had taken up the statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1 at its 41st meeting and had decided to defer a decision pending submission of other statements of programme budget implications.

31. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) sought clarification of the estimated total cost of the services of the governmental experts referred to in paragraph 14 (a) of document A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1 and of whether any pledges of resources had been received thus far. She also wished to receive clarification of the statement in paragraph 20 of document A/C.5/54/31 that no other provisions had been made under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 or under section 26 for other activities related to the sessions of the preparatory committee and the conference. Lastly, it would be useful to have additional information on the modalities for the convening of the group of governmental experts.

32. **Mr. Santos** (Mozambique) said that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons was a matter of grave importance which had a direct impact on the lives of people everywhere. Mozambique therefore

fully supported the decision to convene a United Nations conference on the subject. While the provision of summary records for meetings of the conference and its preparatory committee would constitute a deviation from the guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 37/14 C, in which the Assembly confirmed that summary records should not be provided to special conferences and their preparatory organs, it would not constitute a precedent. He hoped that the views of delegations on the matter could be accommodated.

33. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) said that, given the direct impact of small arms and light weapons on civil society, it was important for the conference to have a meaningful outcome. While reaffirming its commitment to the United Nations budgetary process, Japan hoped that all delegations would support the proposal to provide summary record coverage.

34. **Mr. Yusuf** (United Republic of Tanzania) supported the statement made by the representative of Mozambique and urged delegations to support the convening of the conference.

35. **Mr. Du Preez** (South Africa) said that his delegation also supported the statement made by the representative of Mozambique. While summary records might not be necessary for all meetings of the preparatory committee, they should be provided for those meetings at which decisions were taken. The Secretariat had indicated that the cost of such coverage could be met from within available financial resources.

36. **Mr. Peixoto** (Brazil), joined by **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Mozambique.

37. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to questions raised, said that to date no pledges of extrabudgetary resources had been received for funding the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms. The resource requirements for the convening of the international conference and its preparatory committee were summarized in paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/54/31. Those requirements included an amount of $302,000 for three meetings in 2000-2001 of the Group of Governmental Experts, which had already been included in section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. That amount, however, must be netted against the total of $1,025,100 in non-conference-servicing requirements for an adjusted figure of $723,100.

38. Concerning the modalities for the convening of the Group of Governmental Experts, paragraph 14 (a) of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1 provided that the experts would be appointed on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

39. The proposal for summary record coverage was on the strict understanding that coverage would be provided only for those meetings at which decisions were to be taken. Any additional requirements would be reported in the context of the budget performance report. Additional resource requirements of $30,000 would arise if the proposed press kits were prepared in all six official languages, thus bringing the total non-conference-servicing costs to $753,100.

40. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that Norway supported the convening of the conference because of the critical need to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Her Government was ready to submit its views on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of such weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States.

41. **The Chairman** proposed that, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the following draft decision:

> "Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1, an additional requirement of $753,100 would arise in the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001 under section 4 (Disarmament) ($384,600) and under section 26 (Public information) ($368,500). In addition an amount of $56,500 would be required under section 32 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). These requirements will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.
>
> "The Committee also decides, without prejudice to paragraph 8 of Assembly resolution 37/14 C, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note that if option 4 of paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/54/31/Add.1 is agreed, the requirements for summary records would be minimal. Such requirements, if necessary, would be reported in the context of the budget performance report."

42. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) said that the draft decision which the Chairman had just read out should be amended to reflect the strong support which the proposal to provide summary records had received from delegations. He wished to suggest the following wording for the second paragraph of the proposed decision:

> "The Committee also decides, without prejudice to paragraph 8 of Assembly resolution 37/14C, to recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General be requested to provide summary records for those meetings at which decisions would be taken."

43. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that it might be helpful for the secretariat to circulate in writing the various versions of the draft decision which had been proposed together with their corresponding programme budget implications. While her delegation was in no way opposed to the convening of the conference, it remained unclear about the specific terms of the decision that was about to be taken.

44. **The Chairman** said that the decision was based on the statement submitted by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee's recommendations thereon. The only additional expenditure would arise from the issuance of the press kits in three additional languages. Summary records were proposed only for those meetings at which decisions were to be taken.

45. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) reiterated that a total provision of $753,100 was being proposed for non-conference-servicing requirements. Should the General Assembly decide on the provision of full summary record coverage, an additional appropriation of $448,900 would be required under section 2. The Committee, however, seemed to support the option to provide more limited summary record coverage which, in the view of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, would be possible without the need for additional appropriations. In the unlikely event that the demand for summary records was higher than anticipated, the additional requirements would be reflected in the performance report for the biennium 2000-2001.

46. **Mr. Yusuf** (United Republic of Tanzania) supported the amendment proposed by the representative of Japan.

47. **Ms. Shearouse** (United States of America) said that, in the light of the clarifications provided by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division, her delegation wished to propose that the words "and that the requirement for these records would be minimal" should be added to the amendment proposed by the delegation of Japan.

48. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) supported the amendment proposed by the representative of Japan. The Committee should not prejudge the extent to which summary records would be needed.

49. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that summary records should be provided for all meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts, not only those at which decisions were taken. However, in view of the difficulty of ensuring resources, his delegation would agree to the provision of summary records for only those meetings at which decisions were taken. He asked the United States representative to reconsider her proposal, because it would further restrict the resources available for summary records, and called on the Committee to adopt the proposal as initially formulated.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

50. **The Chairman** proposed that on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the following draft decision:

> "Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1, an additional requirement of $753,100 would arise in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 under section 4 (Disarmament) ($384,600) and under section 26 (Public information) ($368,500). In addition an amount of $56,500 would be required under section 32 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). These requirements will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.
>
> "The Committee also decides, without prejudice to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 37/14C, to recommend to the Assembly that the Secretary-General should be

requested to provide summary records for only those meetings at which decisions will be taken."

51. *It was so decided.*

52. **Ms. Shearouse** (United States of America) said that her delegation recognized the importance of convening the conference, but it was the Committee's responsibility to ensure the optimal use of available resources. Her delegation would therefore continue to address the resource requirements under sections 4 and 26. It had not opposed the decision just taken on the understanding that there would be no additional resource requirements for the provision of summary records.

53. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that it was her delegation's constant concern to ensure in all cases that the additional resources needed for carrying out mandates and new activities approved by the General Assembly were made available. That was also a priority and a duty for the Committee.

54. **Mr. Ekorong A. Dong** (Cameroon) said that his delegation welcomed the draft decision, for the topics to be discussed at the conference were of particular importance for the countries of Africa.

Construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa (A/54/7/Add.5 and A/54/431)

Unforseen and extraordinary expenses (A/54/7/Add.5; A/C.5/54/29)

Proposed abolition of two General Service posts under income section 3 (A/54/7/Add.5; A/C.5/54/14)

Internal and external printing practices at the Organization (A/54/7/Add.5; A/C.5/54/18)

Temporary assistance for meetings: requirements for 2000-2001 (A/54/7/Add.5; A/C.5/54/19)

Rental of United Nations premises by press and other entities (A/54/7/Add.5; A/C.5/54/25)

Section 26. Public information (A/54/7/Add.5; A/C.5/54/27)

Use of general temporary assistance for specific positions (A/54/7/Add.5; A/C.5/54/33)

55. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that with the exception of the construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa the reports of the Secretary-General dealt with in the ACABQ report (A/54/7/Add.5) had been submitted in response to the comments and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget.

56. On the question of conference facilities at Addis Ababa the Advisory Committee recommended (A/54/7/Add.5, para. 4) that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General.

57. The Advisory Committee recommended in connection with unforseen and extraordinary expenses that the authority of the Secretary-General to commit funds without the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee should be increased from $5 million to $8 million (para. 7). The other issues raised in the Secretary-General's report would be monitored and, if necessary, revisited by the Advisory Committee.

58. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposal to abolish one General Service post in Geneva under income section 3 (para. 15).

59. With regard to internal and external printing practices, the Advisory Committee recommended that the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session should take account of the observations made in paragraphs 16 to 19 of its report.

60. The Advisory Committee had not found the Secretary-General's note on temporary assistance for meetings entirely satisfactory. Its comments were contained in paragraphs 20 to 24.

61. ACABQ had not completed its review of the Secretary-General's note on rental of United Nations premises (paras. 25-28) and would revert to the matter upon receipt of the requested information.

62. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the Secretary-General's note on section 26 (paras. 29-33).

63. Lastly, the Advisory Committee was dissatisfied with the secretariat's practices with regard to the use of general temporary assistance for specific positions. There were several instances of posts which should be clearly classified as either temporary or established. The Advisory Committee recommended that the

situation should be reviewed in the biennium 2000-2001.

64. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba), referring to temporary assistance for meetings, said that her delegation would like to know when the further justification requested by the Advisory Committee from the secretariat in paragraph 20 of its report would be available, for the Fifth Committee would be considering the question in its informal consultations over the next few days.

65. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that at the current session the Advisory Committee had repeatedly found itself having to comment on reports without having had enough time to get additional information from the secretariat. Whatever additional information could be supplied in informal consultations would of course be welcome. If the information could not be made available quickly, it could be supplied at a later date, to be specified by the Fifth Committee.

66. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should continue its consideration of the eight questions in informal consultations.

67. *It was so decided.*

Organization of work

68. **The Chairman** outlined the Committee's programme of work.

69. **Mr. Medina** (Morocco) said that the programme of work had not been approved in a formal meeting of the Committee, and his delegation had in fact objected to it in an informal meeting. It would like to know by what criterion the Bureau had decided to schedule a formal meeting for a Saturday.

70. **Mr. Ekorong A. Dong** (Cameroon) said that many sections of the proposed programme budget which closely affected Africa were still being considered in informal consultations. It was very important in particular for the Committee to take decisions on questions of programme planning, especially as the Committee for Programme and Coordination would be reviewing the medium-term plan in a few months' time. Many of the recommendations in the proposed programme budget concerned the New Agenda for the Development of Africa and required decisions before the end of the session. His delegation would like to know what the Bureau's intentions were in that regard.

71. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation would also welcome an answer to the question put by the representative of Morocco concerning the scheduling of a formal meeting on a Saturday. It was usual to have only informal meetings at the weekend. The decision should be reconsidered.

72. **Mr. Monayair** (Kuwait) said that his delegation had requested at an earlier meeting that the Bureau should consult the States which observed Ramadan about the schedule of meetings. The Bureau should do so in the present case.

73. **Ms. Aragon** (Philippines) said that her delegation had made a statement on the programme of work at an earlier meeting. It hoped that the Bureau would take its concerns about agenda item 164 (Human resources management) into consideration.

74. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by the Moroccan and other delegations about the scheduling of a formal meeting on a Saturday.

75. **Mr. Medina** (Morocco) said that his delegation deeply regretted that the Bureau continued to ignore the serious concerns of his and other delegations about the programme of work. Morocco's repeated expressions of disagreement with the programmes proposed by the Bureau had apparently fallen on deaf ears. If the Bureau continued to work in that fashion, it must assume full responsibility for any additional delay or blockage in the Committee's work due to poor management of the timetable. His delegation would not be bound by any decision taken outside normal working hours and it reserved the right to reopen any such decision in a formal meeting. He hoped that following a further meeting of the Bureau the Chairman would be able to answer all the questions raised by his delegation.

76. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that in the light of the various comments made it might be useful for the Bureau to review the programme of work for the remainder of the session. The Committee itself might then perhaps meet briefly to look at the pending items and decide what specific action must be taken and what items might be deferred. Such a meeting might be able to tidy up the programme of work.

77. **Mr. Ahounou** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed about the scheduling of a meeting on a Saturday during Ramadan. However, that would not be the first time that the General Assembly had worked on a Saturday. The Committee was under severe pressure, and all delegations must tolerate some inconvenience.

78. **The Chairman** said that before taking its decisions on the programme of work the Bureau did consider all the issues in depth. He could assure the Moroccan delegation and all the other delegations which had spoken on the question that the Bureau would re-examine the programme of work in the light of their comments and proposals and then report back to the Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/54/SR.45

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session

Official Records

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 45th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 10 December 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Darwish (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Egypt)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative And Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

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Organization of work

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99-82659 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 142: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (A/54/120, A/54/395, A/54/518 and Corr.1 and A/54/645; A/C.5/54/30)

Agenda item 143: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (A/54/30, A/54/496 and Corr.1, A/54/521 and A/54/646; A/C.5/54/30)

1. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the reports of the Advisory Committee on the proposed requirements for 2000 and the budget performance for 1998 of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/54/645) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/54/646 and Add.1). The Advisory Committee had made recommendations on survivors' benefits for the judges of the two Tribunals (A/54/646, para. 75).

2. The Advisory Committee had had to consider the reports on the two Tribunals under great time pressure because the estimates had not been submitted by 1 October, as the Advisory Committee had requested. There was no excuse for the late submission of those reports. The Advisory Committee recommended that the financial period for the two Tribunals should be formalized (A/54/645, para. 76). Moreover, because the report of the Expert Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/212 had not been submitted by the Secretary-General until 17 November, the Advisory Committee had been unable to benefit from the Group's report in preparing its own reports. Paragraph 3 of each of the Advisory Committee's reports indicated how the Group's report should be handled.

3. In paragraph 4 of its report on the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/54/645), the Advisory Committee recommended that the unencumbered balance of $2.7 million gross should be credited to Member States. In reviewing the estimates for 2000 for that Tribunal, the Advisory Committee had taken into account the projected saving of $8.2 million. For the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the performance report for 1998 showed an over-expenditure of $2.2 million. The relevant comments of the Advisory Committee were contained in paragraphs 6 to 9 of document A/54/646; in particular, he drew attention to the specific comments contained in paragraphs 8 and 9.

4. Some progress had been made in addressing the concerns expressed previously by the Advisory Committee. For example, vacancy rates had been reduced in both Tribunals. However, although the preparation of workload indicators had improved somewhat, considerable work remained to be done by the two Tribunals. In submitting its recommendations, the Advisory Committee had paid close attention to the needs of the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, court and judicial management resources and language and documentation services, and had recognized that the workload in the area of appeals had increased. The Advisory Committee had taken a more conservative stance with respect to administrative and management areas of the Registries, in which the introduction of new technology and of streamlined procedures and processes could enhance productivity and obviate the need for additional resources. In cases where vacancies were still above normal attrition rates, the Advisory Committee had concluded that additional staff capacity could not be determined until the current vacancy rates were further reduced.

5. For the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the number of posts requested by the Secretary-General and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee were summarized in paragraphs 15 and 77 of document A/54/645. For the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the corresponding recommendations were summarized in paragraph 12 of document A/54/646 and in A/54/646/Add.1.

6. **Ms. Trönningsdal** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, said that she was deeply concerned about the fact that the very late issuance of the reports of the Secretary-General on the two

Tribunals had made it difficult for the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee to give them the in-depth consideration they required. She also deeply regretted that the report of the Expert Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/212 and 53/213 had not been submitted by the deadline of 1 November 1999, since that had made it impossible to take informed decisions on the proposals. That report should be submitted to the General Assembly as soon as possible.

7. The length of detention was a matter of concern with respect to both Tribunals. She noted the Advisory Committee's view that a mere increase in resources would not significantly alleviate that problem unless corresponding judicial measures were taken. Such measures should include steps to ensure the full and effective use of the Tribunals' facilities. She also noted that the Expert Group had given advice on possible measures in that regard (A/54/646, para. 25). Considering the large increase in the workload of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia over the last year and the conversion of the exhumation projects from extrabudgetary resources to the assessed budget, the proposed budget requirements for the Tribunal were reasonable. She was pleased that the Tribunal had followed up on the recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies and of the Advisory Committee (A/54/518, annex VII).

8. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had faced a series of administrative problems over the years. As the President of the Tribunal had told the General Assembly on 8 November 1999, a better organized and more supportive court management system was urgently needed, and the autonomy asserted by the Registrar at times had an impact on the ability of the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor to work independently and to control the pace and quality of their work. The European Union was concerned about unsolved administrative problems such as those relating to financial control and accountability. Recommendations in that regard, particularly those of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), should be fully implemented. Information on the Tribunal's compliance with OIOS recommendations and on the expenditure of voluntary contributions should have been provided in the annexes to the budget proposals, and should be provided to the Fifth Committee at the current stage, along with the most recent figures on vacancy rates and a breakdown of the vacancies filled.

9. The European Union strongly supported the important work of the two Tribunals. However, in the absence of the Expert Group report and in view of the delayed issuance of the budget documents and the shortage of time, the Committee had little choice but to revert to the subject at the resumed session. She hoped that the Advisory Committee's comments on the Expert Group report would be made available early enough to enable the Committee to take an informed decision at that stage. Meanwhile, the General Assembly would have to take an interim decision enabling the Tribunals to continue to function until a final decision was taken.

10. **Mr. Zhou Qiangwu** (China) said that he shared the European Union's concerns about the late submission of the Secretary-General's report on the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Secretariat should explain the reasons for the delay. He was concerned about the 6.5-per-cent increase in the resources proposed for 2000 and about the proposals to add 98 new posts in the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry and to reclassify 14 posts, and asked for an explanation. Lastly, he was concerned to note that over 300 gratis personnel were working for the Tribunal, and asked for clarification.

Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

11. **Mr. Yel'chenko** (Ukraine) said that his Government had requested in 1993 that Ukraine should be relocated from group B to group C in the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations. The transition had begun in 1996, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/224, but had not been completed until 1999.

12. The General Assembly had decided in decision 49/470 that any arrears of Ukraine as at 1 January 1995 and for 1995 in the financing of peacekeeping operations should be considered as being due to conditions beyond its control and that, accordingly, the question of the applicability of Article 19 in that respect would not arise. That decision reflected the fact that, as a result of the redistribution of the assessment of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in

1992, Ukraine's rate of assessment, and hence its peacekeeping assessments, had far exceeded its capacity to pay. Indeed, because of its economic and financial difficulties, Ukraine had accumulated a huge amount of arrears, particularly in respect of peacekeeping, during the period between the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/224 and the completion of its transition to group C.

13. The problem of those new arrears had not been adequately addressed. In fact, implementation of General Assembly decision 49/470 in the context of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations rendered it impossible for Ukraine to make the minimum payment of $15.8 million required by the end of 1999 in order to avoid the application of Article 19 in 2000. Ukraine's total assessments for peacekeeping operations established since 1996 and for the tribunals amounted to $11.9 million. Any additional amount paid by Ukraine would be offset against its earliest assessed contributions prior to 1996, rather than being counted against the minimum payment due of $15.8 million. Because of that anomaly, it stood to lose its voting rights in the General Assembly.

14. Ukraine had endeavored to reduce its arrears and had entirely paid off its outstanding regular budget contributions. It was committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter, as was demonstrated by its contribution of troops and equipment to peacekeeping operations. In 1996, it had voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenal. His delegation did not contest Ukraine's obligation to pay its arrears. However, it wished to propose that the Fifth Committee should consider a draft decision providing that all financial contributions of Ukraine to the Organization should be counted against the minimum payment required to avoid the loss of voting rights in the General Assembly under the provisions of Article 19. The text of the draft decision was contained in the annex to the aide-mémoire circulated informally. He wished to emphasize that the adoption of the draft decision would not create a precedent, since it would be applicable to only one other Member State, namely, Belarus. Clearly, action must be taken on the draft decision prior to 1 January 2000.

15. **Mr. Sychov** (Belarus) said that the main reason for his country's arrears had been the sharp increase in its rate of assessment from 1993 to 1994, following the redistribution of the assessments of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In addition, peacekeeping assessments had risen dramatically during that period because of the establishment of a large number of new peacekeeping operations so that, as at 1 January 1996, Belarus' total assessment for peacekeeping operations had stood at almost $46 million.

16. The General Assembly had taken a number of steps to bring the Republic's rate of assessment into line with its capacity to pay. Thus, in September 1995, it had adopted decision 49/249 B, in which it had decided to place Belarus in group C. He wished to express gratitude in that connection to Portugal, which had been relocated to group B. The Assembly had also decided in decision 49/470 to consider any arrears of Belarus as at 1 January 1995 and for 1995 in the financing of peacekeeping operations as being due to conditions beyond its control.

17. Regrettably, the process of transferring Belarus from group B to group C had taken almost 3 years, during which time it had accumulated substantial arrears despite making sufficient payments to both the regular and peacekeeping budgets to avoid the application of Article 19. Belarus was about to make a payment of more than $4 million to the Organization, which would fully cover its regular budget assessments, its assessments for the two tribunals and all its outstanding assessments for peacekeeping operations that had begun after 1 January 1996. Yet, because of the anomaly described by the representative of Ukraine, the Republic faced losing its vote in the General Assembly for purely technical reasons.

18. He therefore trusted that the Committee would give serious consideration to the proposal jointly submitted by his delegation and that of Ukraine with a view to taking action before 1 January 2000.

19. **The Chairman** said that the Bureau would consider the request by the representatives of Ukraine and Belarus.

20. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his delegation was aware of the continuing economic difficulties faced by Ukraine and Belarus. However, General Assembly decision 49/470 did not amount to a write-off of their peacekeeping arrears. Indeed, the General Assembly had called upon Ukraine and Belarus in that decision to prepare proposals for the treatment of their arrears. It was regrettable that they had not done so. He wished to encourage those countries once again to submit an instalment plan envisaging the payment of all arrears within a

reasonable period of time. He trusted that, in future, the Committee would be given adequate time to consider the issue.

21. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that, while his delegation attached great importance to the payment of assessed contributions on time and in full, it recognized that the arrears incurred by Ukraine and Belarus in respect of peacekeeping operations were due to their economic difficulties and to the cumbersome decision-making process of the United Nations. It was also cognizant of the fact that the amount of those arrears far exceeded the capability of those countries to pay. Nevertheless, it noted with satisfaction their commitment to pay their arrears and their willingness to submit payment plans to that end. They were to be commended for having taken steps to pay their outstanding regular budget contributions. His delegation would support the adoption of the draft decision contained in the annex to the aide-mémoire circulated informally.

22. **Mr. Medina** (Morocco) said that his delegation would also support the adoption of the draft decision. It well understood the circumstances that had caused the two countries to accumulate such substantial arrears.

Death and disability benefits (A/C.5/54/13)

23. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that document A/C.5/54/13 contained the Secretary-General's ninth quarterly report on death and disability claims and had been submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/239 A. The eighth quarterly report (A/C.5/53/66) had indicated that, as at 31 March 1999, 222 claims had been awaiting processing; that number had increased to 285 as at 30 June and to 317 as at 30 September 1999 (A/C.5/54/13, para. 4). Between 31 March and 30 September 1999, 117 claims had been processed; however, 212 new claims had been received. The Secretariat should monitor the situation carefully to ensure that the backlog previously identified, which had amounted to 564 as at 19 May 1997, did not begin to build up again. The failure to employ more resources in that regard could result in such a situation, as shown by the increase in the number of pending claims between 31 March and 30 September 1999. Subject to those observations, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the note by the Secretary-General.

24. **Mr. Wharton** (United States of America) asked for clarification of the headings of the last two columns in tables A and B of the annex to document A/C.5/54/13, which did not seem to coincide with the information in the rest of the document.

25. **Mr. Yeo** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that the Advisory Committee had been informed previously of the errors in the headings of the last two columns, which should read, "Claims processed from 19 May 1997 to 30 September 1999" and "Total claims awaiting processing", respectively.

26. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the note by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits (A/C.5/54/13).

27. *It was so decided.*

Placement of new Member States for peacekeeping assessments

28. **The Chairman** recalled that the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions had drawn the attention of the Fifth Committee to the need to fix rates of assessment for the three States admitted to membership in the United Nations on 14 September 1999, namely, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga. He understood that the issue had been considered in the informal consultations on agenda item 125, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. In order for the new Member States to be assessed for their share of the cost of United Nations peacekeeping operations, it would be necessary to place them in one of the groups of Member States set out in General Assembly resolution 43/232. He therefore suggested that he should convene a brief informal meeting for that purpose following the adjournment of the current meeting.

29. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 117: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/C.5/54/L.15)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.15

30. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.15, which had been submitted on his behalf by the representative of Zimbabwe.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.15 was adopted.*

Organization of work

32. After an extensive discussion of the Committee's programme of work in which Mr. Nakkari (Syrian Arab Republic), Ms. Aragon (Philippines), Mr. Barnwell (Guyana), Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo (Uganda), Mr. Medina (Morocco), Mr. Sial (Pakistan), Ms. Buergo-Rodriguez (Cuba), Ms. Achouri (Tunisia), Mr. Yusuf (United Republic of Tanzania), Ms. Petrosini (Venezuela), Mr. Zhou Qiangwu (China), Mr. Fox (Australia), Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine), Mr. Diaz (Costa Rica) and Mr. Sareva (Finland) took part, the Chairman said that the Bureau was conscious of the demands which the Committee's heavy workload placed on delegations, particularly the smaller delegations. He was therefore grateful for the flexibility which members had shown in agreeing to continue their informal consultations not only in night meetings during the current week but also on both days of the weekend of 11 to 12 December.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/54/SR.46

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 46th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 13 December 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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Projects to be funded from the resources proposed under section 33 (Development account)

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

Natural disaster mitigation

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

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00-30563 (E)

Analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat

Agenda item 119: Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (*continued*)

Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Election of a Vice-Chairman

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 142: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (*continued*) (A/54/120, A/54/395, A/54/518 and Corr.1 and A/54/645; A/C.5/54/30)

Agenda item 143: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (*continued*) (A/54/30, A/54/393, A/54/521, A/54/496 and Corr.1, A/54/646 and Add. 1; A/C.5/54/30)

1. **Mr. Skjønsberg** (Norway) said that Norway remained a strong supporter of the war crimes tribunals as they entered a crucial phase. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had handed down the first judgement ever rendered by an international court on the crime of genocide. The work and experience of the International Tribunals represented important stepping stones towards the establishment of the International Criminal Court. The allocation of financial resources was essential.

2. Regarding the procedures for budget approval, his delegation commended the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the excellent reports prepared in spite of time pressure (A/54/645 and A/54/646 and Add.1) and looked forward to receiving the Expert Group report evaluating the effective operation and functioning of the Tribunals as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/212. Norway agreed with the Advisory Committee that that report should be submitted to the Tribunals for their comments, which should state in particular which of the recommendations were being or were to be implemented and the reasons for delayed implementation in other cases.

3. His delegation was concerned about the administrative difficulties the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had encountered and had followed closely the efforts to improve working conditions in Arusha and Kigali. The Registrar had succeeded in improving administrative procedures over the last year and had completed construction of a third courtroom, but there were still delays in the judicial work. The pace of trial proceedings needed to be expedited to cope with the increasing volume of work and to reduce detention time. The need for a better organized and more supportive court management system was urgent. The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of $86.2 million gross represented a reduction of $1.7 million gross from the Secretary-General's proposal. Although the reduction seemed justified, his delegation would like the Secretariat's comments as to whether it could cause further delays in judicial work. In that regard the need for additional posts would be hard to evaluate until the Tribunal had considerably reduced the vacancy rate.

4. The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had developed into an efficient, operating court, bringing to justice those whose presence would impede the establishment of civil society in the former Yugoslavia. Noting that the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of $106.1 million gross for the year 2000 represented a reduction of $4.5 million gross from the Secretary-General's proposal and entailed a long list of post reductions, his delegation would like to ask the Secretariat whether the reductions might adversely affect the future work of the Tribunal.

5. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that adequate financing was essential for the effective functioning of the International Tribunals. While his delegation regretted the absence of the report of the Expert Group, it seemed to have no bearing on financing and that the budget issues could be resolved by the end of the year. However, he would appreciate guidance on that point from the Advisory Committee.

6. With regard to the question of the survivors' lump sum benefit for judges of the International Tribunals, the Advisory Committee had recommended option 1, involving a minimum of one month's base salary, as opposed to option 2, involving a minimum of three months' base salary. However, option 1 was apparently not fully in line with the terms and conditions established for judges of the International Court of Justice, as required by the statutes of the International Tribunals. The Advisory Committee had requested but had not received information on the financial

implications of options 1 and 2. His delegation would appreciate guidance on the question.

7. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that questions had been raised earlier concerning gratis personnel. Subsequent to the alleged ethnic cleansing of Kosovar Albanians in early 1999, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had intensified and expanded its activities. The discovery of mass graves had revealed the urgent need for more resources to document the crime scenes before evidence became tainted or lost. The Secretary-General had stated his intention to use gratis forensic crime personnel as victim identification personnel with expert-on-mission status. Related personnel expense had been borne by the donors. Some 375 such personnel had contributed to the forensic exhumation project, and the work on-site had been completed by the end of October.

8. The main reasons for resource growth in 2000 were the conversion of the exhumation project in Bosnia and Herzegovina from extrabudgetary resources to the assessed budget; the increased scope of investigation activity in Kosovo, including exhumations, scheduled for 2000; the proposed addition of temporary posts to support the higher level of investigation; and the proposed increase in human resources to support the work of the trial chambers. An increase of 98 posts had been proposed, 41 directly related to the higher level of investigation activity and 17 to support services. A detailed breakdown could be found in annex II to the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the Tribunal (A/54/518).

9. Regarding voluntary contributions and vacancy rates, by 31 October 1999, $29 million had been received in voluntary contributions, of which $18.2 million had been spent. The vacancy rate as at 23 November 1999 had been 7.5 per cent. Further information was available in the annexes to the Secretary-General's (A/54/518) and the Advisory Committee's (A/54/645) reports.

10. With respect to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in early 1999 the Office of International Oversight Services (OIOS) had found that the Tribunal had satisfactorily implemented a number of its recommendations and had made other improvements in financial management and in filling vacancies, but that further efforts were needed to strengthen controls for management of assets and procurement (A/54/393, paras. 70-71).

11. Information on voluntary contributions was to be found in annex VI to the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the Tribunal for Rwanda (A/54/521). To date a total of $5,980,000 had been spent, chiefly on investigation activities, transport of witnesses and the witness protection programme; some funds had been used to enhance the communication infrastructure.

12. The overall vacancy rate was currently 19.3 per cent, reflecting a rate of 24.8 per cent for Professional posts and 15.7 per cent for General Service and other categories. Between January and August 1999, 100 vacant posts had been filled. Annex III to the Secretary-General's report (A/54/521) provided a monthly breakdown of the vacancy rate.

13. With regard to the delay in the submission of the Secretary-General's reports on the financing of the Tribunals, not all the information from the Tribunals themselves had been available in time to permit adherence to the 1 October deadline. The following year the Secretariat would begin the process earlier.

14. Information about the financial implications of the two options for survivor's benefits for the judges of the Tribunals would be made available to the Fifth Committee in informals.

15. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), responding to questions and comments, said that the Advisory Committee had asked the Secretary-General to submit the Expert Group's report on the Tribunals to the General Assembly.

16. With regard to the statement made by the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to the General Assembly on 8 November 1999, he would caution against drawing hasty conclusions before the report of the Expert Group was submitted to the General Assembly and commented upon by the Advisory Committee.

17. As to whether the Expert Group report would have an impact on the estimates before the Committee, the effect of implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations for enhancing efficiency in the operations of the Tribunals would be felt on a long-term basis; accordingly it would be difficult to use the report to adjust those estimates.

18. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) agreed that the Expert Group report should be submitted to the Tribunals for their comments and subsequently considered by the Fifth

Committee during its consideration of the next budget submission for the Tribunals. He understood that the report was now being translated; if the idea was acceptable to the Committee, it might be possible to have it distributed in the original language as a non-paper. In any event, the absence of the report should not prevent the Committee from taking a decision on the financing of the two Tribunals.

19. **Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo** (Uganda) said that his delegation supported the views just expressed by the representative of Pakistan.

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.36 concerning agenda item 48 (continued) (A/C.5/54/38)

20. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the following draft decision:

"*The General Assembly*,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.36 (A/C.5/54/38) and *endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon (A/54/659);

"2. *Emphasizes* that the Mission shall be provided with all resources needed for the full implementation of its mandate;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, should the extrabudgetary resources for the Mission become insufficient, to report to the General Assembly for further action."

21. **Mr. Acakpo-Satshivi** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft decision should incorporate the recommendation contained in paragraph 28 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications, which read:

"... should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/54/L.36, the requirements of $10,353,200 ($9,173,100 for MICAH and $1,180,100 for MICIVIH) would be charged against the provision of $90,387,200 for special political missions requested in section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001."

22. **The Chairman** said that she would take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft decision, as orally revised.

23. *It was so decided.*

Projects to be funded from the resources proposed under section 33 (Development Account) (A/54/7/Add.8; A/C.5/54/37)

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/54/6/Rev.1/Add.1 and A/54/7/Add.6)

Natural disaster mitigation (A/53/641; A/54/7)

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/C.5/54/26)

Analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat (A/54/520 and A/54/657)

24. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the five topics, said that the Secretary-General, in his report (A/C.5/54/37), had submitted projects to be funded from the estimate of $13,065,000 to be approved by the General Assembly under section 33 (Development Account) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. In future the report should be submitted much earlier to facilitate review of the projects and related costs by the appropriate bodies. The Advisory Committee, in its related report (A/54/7/Add.8), commended the Secretariat for the clarity and quality of the Secretary-General's report, agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal, and outlined the roles of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, ACABQ and the Second Committee in future reviews of reports on Development Account projects.

25. In its report on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) (A/54/7/Add.6), the Advisory Committee noted that the estimate for ITC had been submitted in accordance with the new procedure approved by the General Assembly in its decision

53/411 B. The contribution of the United Nations to the ITC budget for 2000-2001 amounted to $19,980,000 (Sw F 29.2 million). The Advisory Committee recommended approval of that amount, including the request for two new P-4 posts. However, no agreement had been reached between the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the reclassification of two P-3 posts to the P-4 level and one P-2 post to the P-3 level, as proposed by ITC. The Advisory Committee had expressed serious reservations about the implications of the situation. There was no proposal from the Secretary-General to reclassify the posts. The issue was not the number and grade of the posts but a question of principle that needed to be addressed in order to ensure that the new arrangement for formulating and reviewing the ITC budget by the parent organizations was not adversely affected. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should take no action on the three reclassifications and that the secretariats of the United Nations and WTO should review the matter, bearing in mind the expressed needs of ITC. The results of the review should be reflected in the first performance report for the biennium 2000-2001.

26. The views and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on natural disaster mitigation could be found in paragraphs VI.31 and VI.32 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7).

27. The Secretary-General had transmitted to the General Assembly a recommendation by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) for a $213,000 subvention from the regular budget in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/148 H. Since the amount was already included in section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposal contained in paragraph 5 of his report (A/C.5/54/26)

28. The issues raised in the report of the Secretary-General on the resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section (A/54/520) had already been brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/7/Rev.1) and again in its first report for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7), but no action had been taken thus far by the Secretariat to address those concerns. The Advisory Committee had concluded that the matter had been procedurally mishandled and that there was a lack of coordination between Secretariat units. In its report (A/54/657), the Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Secretariat should address its concerns, together with the administrative and financial issues raised in the Secretary-General's report (A/54/520), and should submit another report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-fourth session, at which time the Advisory Committee would review the matter.

29. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on projects to be funded from the resources proposed under section 33 (Development Account) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/C.5/54/37), said that the level proposed for the Development Account was $13,065,000, as in the current biennium. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 53/220 A and 53/220 B, had approved seven projects for the first tranche on an ad hoc and one-time-only basis. In resolution 54/15 the General Assembly had decided to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities, which had made it possible to formulate 16 new proposals for the second tranche, described in the report.

30. In formulating the projects the Secretariat had been guided by the criteria in paragraph 5 of resolution 53/220 A and the recommendations in the Advisory Committee's report on the utilization of the Development Account (A/54/7/Add.4). The projects aimed at capacity-building with multiplier and demonstrative effects in developing countries; promotion of interregional, regional and subregional cooperation; and use of human and technical resources available in developing countries.

31. The 16 proposals had been selected after joint review from a much larger pool of proposals submitted by entities represented on the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. In contrast to the first tranche, which had focused on networking for development, the present set of proposals addressed a broad range of development issues, including: capacity-building in planning and management of natural resources and sustainable resource-based development; statistical capacity development at the regional level; equalization of opportunities for person

with disabilities; integration of countries into the multilateral trading system; debt sustainability analysis; and promotion of gender equality in Africa. In the present tranche particular emphasis was given to the economic and social needs of Africa, a major priority of the medium-term plan.

32. Several of the projects were to be undertaken jointly by two or more entities represented on the Executive Committee. Project F, for example, was to be a joint project of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In other cases the entity involved was expected to cooperate closely with the relevant regional commission and to establish collaborative links with UNDP country offices. All projects would be in full compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and hence would be administered by the regular budget entities according to established procedures.

33. The Secretariat was cognizant of the General Assembly's request that it should keep the implementation of the projects under review and report on their outcomes. An annual report on the first year of operation of the Development Account would be submitted to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly in May 2001. A central monitoring and evaluation system was being established to support the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as programme manager of the Account.

34. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he regretted the inordinate delay in the submission of the Secretary-General's report on projects to be funded from the Development Account (A/C.5/54/37), as a result of which the competent expert bodies, such as the Committee for Programme and Coordination, had been unable to examine the programme narrative of section 33. That represented a contravention of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (PPBME Rules). In future, detailed proposals should be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for its consideration and recommendations. All General Assembly resolutions on the Development Account had emphasized that section 33 should be subject to the regulations and rules of the Organization. Therefore, the proposed time limits on the projects should not set a precedent for other budget sections. Moreover, the second performance report for the biennium 1998-1999 had not indicated the savings resulting from the implementation of efficiency measures. The Secretariat should provide that information to facilitate informal consultations on section 33.

35. He also regretted the late submission of the proposed programme budget of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/54/6/Rev.1/Add.1), as a result of which the Committee had been deprived of the expert views of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme narrative. In future that budget fascicle should be issued on time, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. Lastly, he asked the Secretariat to clarify the issues raised in paragraph 3 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/54/7/Add.8).

36. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico) said that he shared the concerns expressed by the Guyanese delegation about the late issuance of the report on projects to be funded from the Development Account. While he did not question the importance of African development, he stressed that activities in Africa should not be carried out at the expense of activities in other regions. He was very disappointed to note that, of the projects listed in document A/C.5/54/37, only one was for Latin America and the Caribbean. It was clear that that part of the world was not a priority for the Organization.

37. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that he fully supported the views expressed by the representative of Guyana on the Development Account. With respect to the analysis of the organizational structure and personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations (A/54/520), paragraph 29 clearly indicated that the Section's workload would increase substantially and that the Section would have to find new ways to meet its goals. Sufficient resources must be provided to underpin the Organization's work with civil society and non-governmental organizations. However, no specific budget proposals had been included in the document. He asked why that was so, particularly since the Advisory Committee had requested such proposals previously in its first report on the programme budget for 1998-1999 (A/52/7).

38. **Ms. Sun Minqin** (China) said that she fully endorsed the comments of the Algerian delegation on the Non-Governmental Organizations Section. According to the report of the Secretary-General, the Section's workload was increasing, particularly as the number of meetings originally forecast for 2000-2001 had already doubled. The Section must therefore be provided with adequate resources to enable it to accommodate its increasing workload.

39. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that he associated himself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and looked forward to receiving information on the issues raised. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 53/220 A, the General Assembly had stressed that, in the implementation of projects funded from the Development Account, particular attention should be given to the utilization of technical, human and other resources available in the developing countries. He asked whether that provision would be taken into account if the proposals contained in document A/C.5/54/37 were implemented.

40. In a number of resolutions on the Development Account, the General Assembly had emphasized that projects to be funded from the Account must be formulated and implemented in full conformity with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization. However, the inclusion of time limits in all the projects proposed was not in conformity with those regulations and rules. In its resolution 53/220 B, the General Assembly had decided that the anticipated duration of the projects approved by that resolution should not be used as a precedent for setting time limits. Since that provision was very clear, he wondered why time limits had been included in the proposals contained in document A/C.5/54/37.

41. **Mr. Abdallah** (Sudan) said that the question of the personnel and technical resources requirements of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat, as set forth in document A/54/657, had been discussed in informal consultations. On that occasion a number of delegations, including his own, had expressed extreme concern about the situation faced by the Section and the need to provide it with immediate support. It was also stated in the report of the Advisory Committee that there had been an increase in the volume of work of the Section. He noted with concern the comment in the report that the matter had been procedurally mishandled by the Secretariat. He expressed his full agreement with the opinion voiced by the representatives of Algeria and China concerning the need to provide support to the Section in order to enable it to perform its functions.

42. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that, in document A/C.5/54/37, the Secretariat had proposed a wide range of projects to fulfil the intent of the Development Account. While he appreciated the manner in which the projects were presented, he was concerned about the need for ways to measure progress towards the goals stated in the document. That view was shared by the Advisory Committee and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (A/54/7/Add.8, para. 4). Clear measures must be established before the projects were undertaken so that Member States would know if and when goals had been achieved. He asked the Secretariat to explain how that would be done. He was also concerned about the fact that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was to carry out the last four projects listed in the document. Management irregularities had reduced the capacity of UNCTAD to manage its programme of work effectively. The Secretary-General should take immediate action to correct those problems so that UNCTAD could carry out such projects in full compliance with the regulations and rules of the Organization.

43. In its report on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/54/7/Add.6), the Advisory Committee accepted the budget proposals, with the exception of the post reclassifications proposed in paragraph 11B.5 of document A/54/6/Rev.1/Add.1. Since the United States delegation did not support any increase in the Organization's budget, it could not accept the proposed 1.3-per-cent increase in the International Trade Centre (ITC) budget. Like all other United Nations organizations, ITC should take efficiency measures to enable it to operate within the current level of resources.

44. Likewise, his delegation did not support the proposed subvention to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for natural disaster mitigation. The arrangement agreed upon for the current biennium had been temporary, as was the proposed arrangement for the coming biennium. His delegation could not accept the establishment of a permanent arrangement through a succession of

temporary arrangements. UNDP had already had ample opportunity to find other sources of funding for those activities. Similarly, the subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) had been a temporary arrangement. He regretted that the efforts of UNIDIR to find other sources of income had not been fruitful; however, if other resources were not available, UNIDIR must review its programme of work and sources of financing. His delegation opposed the provision of a subvention to UNIDIR since it was inappropriate to use United Nations resources to subsidize other organizations from the regular budget. However, if other delegations felt that it was needed again on a temporary basis, the funds should be provided under the budget section on technical cooperation, which was intended to fund temporary activities of that nature. Otherwise, the subvention could become a permanent part of the budget. Lastly, he agreed with the Advisory Committee's comments on the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, and looked forward to receiving further information from the Secretariat in response to the Advisory Committee's concerns.

45. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that she supported the views expressed on behalf of the Group of 77 and China with respect to section 33 of the proposed programme budget. Since the General Assembly had not yet taken a decision on performance indicators, the criteria set out by the General Assembly in its resolutions 53/220 A and B should be used to measure the performance of the projects. The Secretariat's proposal of 16 projects to be carried out in the coming biennium should have been submitted earlier so that the Second Committee could have considered it as well. In future, recommendations concerning the programme aspects of proposed projects should be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for comment before they were submitted to the General Assembly.

46. She recognized the role of UNCTAD as the focal point for trade and development activities, and welcomed the projects it was to carry out on relevant topics. She agreed with the comments of the Guyanese delegation regarding ITC, and reaffirmed her delegation's support for the provision of a subvention to UNIDIR, in accordance with General Assembly decisions on the subject. With respect to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, she shared the views expressed by the representatives of Algeria, China and Sudan, and endorsed the Advisory Committee's comments on the significant increase in the Section's workload. However, she was concerned about the late submission of the Secretary-General's report on the subject, which had made it impossible for the Third Committee to consider it. She was also concerned to note that the report lacked specific budget proposals, even though it had been submitted under agenda item 121. She wondered why the report contained no proposals for action by the General Assembly to solve the problems it described.

47. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) recalled that, on a number of occasions, the Secretary-General had stressed the importance of partnership between the United Nations and civil society. The growing number of non-governmental organizations seeking consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the enormous workload of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section showed that a crucial decision must be made. The General Assembly must either recognize the important role of civil society in the Organization's work by providing the Section with adequate resources, or decide that the United Nations should change its attitude towards such organizations and reverse the democratic trend that currently characterized its work. He regretted that the relevant report had been submitted late and that it lacked substantive recommendations for immediate action to address the situation it described.

48. **Mr. Paredes** (Colombia) said that he supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and that he shared the Mexican delegation's disappointment concerning the low priority given to Latin America and the Caribbean in the formulation of proposals on the use of Development Account resources. He supported the Advisory Committee's comments on the need to allocate adequate resources to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section.

49. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the projects proposed under section 33 fully complied with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, since the time limits specified would apply to programmes, not projects. He agreed with the Advisory Committee (A/54/7/Add.8, para. 4) that the support provided by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the elaboration and implementation of the projects in

question should not lead to the establishment of a structure within the Department in that regard. Moreover, he agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation functions so as better to measure the results achieved by the projects funded from the Development Account.

50. **Mr. Medina** (Morocco) said that he supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The late submission of documentation was a serious problem, especially for small delegations, and the Secretariat should take steps to remedy the situation. He reiterated his delegation's support for the activities of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and the need to provide it with adequate resources to enable it to handle its workload and carry out its mandate effectively.

51. **Ms. Petrosini** (Venezuela) said that she associated herself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. She regretted the late submission of document A/C.5/54/37 and the unequal geographical distribution of the projects proposed in that document. Only one project, representing less than 3 per cent of the total resources available under section 33, was being proposed for Latin America and the Caribbean. She agreed with the Advisory Committee that the proposal should have been submitted to the Second Committee for comments on the substance of the projects, since that would have been useful for the Fifth Committee's analysis of the proposals.

52. **Mr. Den Hartog** (Brazil) said that his delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It regretted the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37, which had prevented delegations from giving adequate consideration to the projects to be funded from the resources proposed under section 33. It appeared, however, at first glance that only one of the 16 projects proposed, project I, would benefit his own region. While he supported the priority given to development in Africa, he considered that a more balanced approach should have been adopted with respect to the needs of other regions.

53. **Mr. Gallardo** (Bolivia), said that he agreed with previous speakers that the proposals made in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37 lacked geographical equity.

54. **Mr. Toscano** (Ecuador) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It deeply regretted the late issuance of the Secretary-General's report. Having examined the proposals made in the report, he considered that the Latin American and Caribbean region had not been treated on the same footing as the other regions. It also needed cooperation for development, and there must be a more balanced approach to the distribution of the resources proposed under section 33. The usefulness of projects N and O was not clear to him.

55. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the submission of detailed proposals for the use of the resources proposed under section 33 of the proposed programme budget had been delayed pending the approval by the General Assembly of the modalities for operating the Development Account, which had taken place only on 29 October 1999. The Secretary-General had thus been somewhat constrained with regard to the timing of the issuance of his report. However, he agreed that future proposals should be submitted first to CPC and then to ACABQ for their comments on the programmatic and financial aspects, respectively, in line with established practice and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. He wished to assure the Committee that the Secretariat had sought to ensure that all elements of the project proposals were in conformity with the mandates of the entities that were to implement them.

56. It was not true to say that only project I, which was to be executed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, would benefit that region. Many of the activities planned under the non-region-specific projects, including projects H, M, N, O and P, would take place in the region. In monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of the projects, the Secretariat would take into account the criterion of geographical balance.

57. The promotion of South-South cooperation had been a priority during the development of the projects. Thus, project D (Capacity-building in decision-making for sustainable development) would result in the establishment and enhancement of institutional linkages and information flows between key

sustainable development stakeholder organizations in Barbados and Maldives. The utilization of human and technical resources from developing regions was also an important aspect of the projects, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/220.

58. The projects proposed were not subject to time limits or sunset clauses, but neither would they go on indefinitely. The Secretariat had simply specified their anticipated duration. He agreed that there was a need to determine clear criteria for assessing the impact of the projects in the developing regions, taking the criteria established in General Assembly resolution 53/220 as a starting point.

59. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) recalled that, in its decision 53/411 B, the General Assembly had endorsed revised budgetary arrangements with regard to the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC). Clearly, there was a need for better coordination between the United Nations and WTO in order to ensure that, in future, the proposed programme budget of ITC was made available for review in a timely fashion. The proposed resource growth of 1.3 per cent, which was largely related to the establishment of two posts at the P-4 level, reflected the priority attached to the activities of ITC. The United Nations Secretariat had opposed the reclassification of two P-3 posts to the P-4 level and one P-2 post to the P-3 level because of the need to maintain entry-level posts and in keeping with its policy of curbing inflation of the grade structure. However, it intended to review the matter in accordance with the recommendation of ACABQ, should that recommendation be approved by the General Assembly.

60. Article 7 of the statute of UNIDIR provided for the funding of the Institute through a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations. The arrangement was not a temporary one.

61. The resource requirements of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat had been reviewed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. In addition, an analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Section had been provided in document A/54/520 pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/34. The Secretariat would examine the concerns expressed by ACABQ, as well as the administrative and financial issues raised in document A/54/520, and submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-fourth session in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of the related report of ACABQ (A/54/657), provided that that recommendation was approved by the Assembly.

62. **Ms. Castellanos González** (Guatemala) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It regretted the late issuance of much of the documentation before the Committee, which had increased the already onerous burden of work of small delegations such as her own. While she welcomed the clarifications provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs with regard to the projects to be funded from the resources requested under section 33 of the proposed programme budget, she was not convinced that the Secretariat had taken fully into account the needs of the Latin American and Caribbean region, where the process of development was hampered by a number of problems, including frequent natural disasters.

63. **Mr. Jara** (Chile) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The explanation provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37 was not entirely satisfactory. The Development Account was a priority for his delegation, and it trusted that the Secretariat would ensure in future that all documentation would be issued in a timely fashion. He regretted that the report of the Secretary-General did not contain a breakdown of the allocation of resources by region, and he wished to know what proportion of those resources had been earmarked for activities to be undertaken in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

64. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) sought clarification regarding paragraph 5 of the report of ACABQ contained in document A/54/7/Add.8, in which it was stated that the Secretary-General would submit a report on initiatives by programme managers to improve productivity in the spring of 2000. The General Assembly had decided in its resolution 54/15 that savings to be achieved as a result of efficiency measures should be identified in the context of budget performance reports. The identification of savings prior to the implementation of

the proposed programme budget was not in conformity with the Organization's budgetary procedures.

65. In paragraph 9 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that, in future, a summary of project proposals should be submitted to CPC for its comments on the programmatic aspects. However, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the PPBME Rules, CPC should be provided with fully detailed proposals on each section of the proposed programme budget. His delegation did not object to the recommendation of ACABQ that project proposals should also be submitted for consideration by the Second Committee. However, the PPBME Rules did not allow for such a step.

66. His delegation did not accept the explanation provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37.

67. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that his delegation remained concerned at the Secretariat's failure to address the administrative and financial issues raised in the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat (A/54/520). Specific proposals should have been made within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to enable the Section to cope with its increased workload and responsibilities. He noted that the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to those problems in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/7/Rev.1).

68. **Mr. Toscano** (Ecuador) said that, while the resources proposed under section 33 were modest, the Secretariat could do more to address the needs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, otherwise the United Nations risked losing an important opportunity to be an agent for development in the region.

69. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to the question posed by the representative of Pakistan, said that, in accordance with the modalities approved by the General Assembly, the report to be issued by the Secretary-General, which was referred to in paragraph 5 of the report of ACABQ contained in document A/54/7/Add.8, would contain only descriptions of productivity improvement initiatives. Any savings achieved would be identified in the second performance report in the autumn of 2000, following completion of the implementation of the initiatives.

70. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the purpose of the project proposals was to see how the Development Account could be used for capacity-building in the developing countries and to promote the type of linkages from which all developing countries could benefit. Given the modest size of the Account, the project proposals sought to use available funds in very specific ways for activities that were currently not being carried out on a sufficiently broad scale.

71. In response to the Chilean delegation's request for additional information on the Secretary-General's proposals, it should be made clear that the training programme on addiction rehabilitation and drug prevention in the workplace for Asia and the Pacific (proposal B) would be implemented not only in Asia but also in Latin America and the Caribbean. Four regional exercises would feed into the project on capacity-building and institutional development for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities (proposal H), which would thus be implemented across various regions, including Latin America. Proposals M, O and P involved numerous activities for Latin America and the Caribbean to be implemented in the first tranche. The projects would be extended to other regions in the second tranche.

72. With regard to the late submission of the project proposals, it had taken more time than anticipated to obtain final approval of the modalities. He agreed with the representative of Pakistan that the rules governing programme planning should be observed in the future.

73. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), in response to the request of the representative of Pakistan for clarification of paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee contained in document A/54/7/Add.8, said that it had not been the Advisory Committee's intention to contravene the existing rules and regulations which provided that information on project proposals should be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The word "summary" in the third sentence of the

paragraph in question should not have been included. What the Advisory Committee meant to say was that project proposals should be submitted to CPC in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and that CPC would consider the proposals in accordance with its mandate. The proposals should then be submitted to the Advisory Committee, which would consider them in accordance with its own mandate.

74. **Mr. Jara** (Chile) said that, while the information which the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had provided was welcome, it should have been clearly conveyed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/54/37). Project proposals were evaluated in the respective capitals of Member States and the Secretariat should therefore provide the information which Governments needed to permit such evaluation.

Agenda item 119: Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (*continued*) (A/54/7 Add.3 and A/54/501)

75. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report contained in document A/54/7/Add.3, said that the Advisory Committee recommended that, on an exceptional basis, the special account should be maintained and the unspent balance retained until all the activities and programmes outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/898 and Corr.1) had been completed.

76. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the States on whose behalf he spoke supported the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which were of special importance to developing countries. They agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that, on an exceptional basis, the special account of UNCTAD should be maintained and the unspent balance retained until all the activities and programmes outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/898 and Corr.1) and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/3 had been completed.

77. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the resources must be retained in the special account until all of the Conference's mandated activities had been carried out.

78. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the following draft decision:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Takes note* of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/54/501 and concurs with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions."

79. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.16

80. **Mr. Humenny** (Ukraine), introducing draft decision A/C.5/54/L.16, said that the draft decision should be considered under agenda item 151 and not under item 151 (b) as indicated on the document. In addition, the reference in the draft text to "all financial contributions of Ukraine to the Organization" should read instead "all financial contributions of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine to the Organization".

81. **Mr. Vantsevich** (Belarus) said that the omission of the Republic of Belarus from the draft text was a technical error which could be resolved in informal consultations.

82. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, requested the Bureau to schedule informal consultations so that members could discuss the matter with representatives of the Secretariat.

83. **Mr. Ekorong A Ndong** (Cameroon) said that his delegation understood the concerns of the delegations of Belarus and Ukraine and was prepared to participate in the informal consultations on the matter, which merited urgent consideration.

84. **Mr. Lozinsky** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported the draft decision and would be willing to participate in the informal consultations on the matter.

85. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would take action on the draft decision at a later meeting. In the meantime, the representatives of Belarus and Ukraine should continue their bilateral consultations

with other delegations with a view to reaching an agreement on the draft decision.

Election of a Vice-Chairman

86. **The Chairman** said that, owing to the departure of Ms. Cardoze from the Permanent Mission of Panama, it was necessary for the Committee to appoint a new Vice-Chairman from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The Group had nominated Ms. Buergo Rodríguez (Cuba) to fill the vacant post. In the absence of any other nomination, she took it that the Committee wished to elect Ms. Buergo Rodríguez (Cuba).

87. *Ms. Buergo Rodríguez (Cuba) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Fifth Committee.*

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.